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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Situation of human rights in East Timor

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fourth special session adopted, on 27 September 1999, resolution 1999/S-4/1 entitled "Situation of human rights in East Timor", in which it, inter alia, called upon the Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry, with adequate representation of Asian experts, in order, in cooperation with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights and thematic rapporteurs, to gather and compile systematically information on possible violations of human rights and acts which might constitute breaches of international humanitarian law committed in East Timor since the announcement in January 1999 of the vote and to provide the Secretary-General with its conclusions with a view to enabling him to make recommendations on future actions, and to make the report of the international commission of inquiry available to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission at its fifty-sixth session (para. 6).

2. Also in that resolution, the Commission decided to request the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out missions to East Timor and report on their findings to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (para. 7 (a)). The Commission further requested the High Commissioner to facilitate the activities of the mechanism of the Commission, to prepare a comprehensive programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, in cooperation

with other United Nations activities, focusing on capacity-building and reconciliation with a view to a durable solution to the problems in East Timor and to keep the Commission informed of developments (para. 7 (b), (c), (d)).

3. Pursuant to that resolution, the Commission will have before it the following documents:

Report of the High Commissioner on developments pursuant to paragraph 7 (d) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/S-4/1 (E/CN.4/2000/27);

Identical letters dated 31 January 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights transmitting the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor (A/54/726-S/2000/59);

Identical letters dated 31 January 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights transmitting a letter dated 26 January 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia (A/54/727-S/2000/65);

Letter dated 18 February 2000 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2000/137);

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/S-4/1 (E/CN.4/2000/115);

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons on the mission to East Timor (E/CN.4/2000/83/Add.3);

Note by the secretariat transmitting the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fourth special session (E/CN.4/2000/44).